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Letter dated 19 July 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I have the pleasure to write to you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of July, to present the concern of the Group regarding the open debate entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security: impact of climate change", scheduled for Wednesday, 20 July 2011. In this regard, I hereby transmit the position of the Group as will be delivered during the aforementioned open debate (see annex).

I would like to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chair of the Group of 77

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Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to thank the Secretary-General and Mr. Steiner for their statements. I also particularly welcome the presence here today of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Nauru, Mr. Marcus Stephen.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China in the context of today's open debate, held in accordance with the letter dated 1 July from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the Council (S/2011/408), on the subject of the impact of climate change on the maintenance of international peace and security. The Group of 77 and China wishes to reaffirm its position on this subject.

The Council's primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations. Other issues, including those related to economic and social development, are assigned by the Charter to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The ever-increasing encroachment by the Security Council on the roles and responsibilities of other principal entities of the United Nations represents a distortion of the principles and purposes of the Charter, infringes on their authority and compromises the rights of the general membership of the United Nations.

The Group of 77 and China underlines how important it is that the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council work within their respective mandates, as set out in the Charter.

General Assembly resolution 63/281 recognized the respective responsibilities of the principal organs of the United Nations, including the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security conferred upon the Security Council and the responsibility for sustainable development issues, including climate change, conferred upon the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and invited the relevant organs of the United Nations, as appropriate and within their respective mandates, to intensify their efforts in considering and addressing climate change, including its possible security implications. The relevant bodies in the field of sustainable development are the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the relevant subsidiary bodies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Programme.

The Group of 77 and China is of the view that it is vital for all Member States to promote sustainable development in accordance with the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and fully implement Agenda 21 and the outcomes of other relevant United Nations conferences in the economic, environmental and social fields, including the Millennium Declaration.

We further emphasize the critical role of the international community in the provision of adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building to developing countries.

We maintain that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary international intergovernmental forum for

negotiating the global response to climate change. In that context, we would recall that an appropriate response to this challenge should address not only the consequences but also the roots of the problem. Let me emphasize that there is a strong case for emission reductions and mitigation actions on the part of developed countries so as to avert the adverse impacts of climate change.

In this context, we are extremely concerned that under current climate change negotiations, there has not yet been any clear indication on the part of the developed countries that they will adopt a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. Moreover, current mitigation pledges from developed countries participating in the UNFCCC negotiations are not sufficient to reduce global greenhouse-gas emissions enough to hold the increase in global average temperature at a level that would accord with what is required by science. Developed countries must be more ambitious in this respect.

We reiterate the need to coordinate international efforts and mobilize partners to assist the observation networks through regional initiatives such as the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre. In this regard, we call on the relevant agencies and organs of the United Nations, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to reinforce regional broadcasting systems to help island communities during a disaster and increase the effectiveness of observation in those regions. Any measures taken in this context must ensure that an integrated approach is adopted in responding to environmental emergencies.

The response to the impacts of climate change and disasters must include the strengthening of the Hyogo Framework for Action for disaster risk reduction, as well as an increase in assistance to developing countries and affected States, including by supporting efforts to enhance their national and regional capacities for the implementation of plans and strategies for preparedness, rapid response, recovery and development.

The Group would like to underline the fact that developing countries continue to suffer from the adverse impacts of climate change and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Developing countries are the most vulnerable to climate change, and support for their efforts needs to be stepped up. In this regard, we call for the full and effective implementation of the commitments under the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

We reiterate that sea-level rise continues to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development and that, for some, it represents the gravest of threats to their survival and viability.

The Group of 77 and China will continue to pursue the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, which are our first and overriding priorities, as well as the fulfilment of the commitments made by developed countries in all relevant bodies.

We strongly reiterate our expectation that the initiative of the Council to hold this debate will not create a precedent that undermines the authority or mandate of the relevant bodies, processes and instruments that already address these issues in all their complexity.